

WALLY HERGER, CALIFORNIA, CHAIRMAN  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

NANCY L. JOHNSON, CONNECTICUT  
WES WATKINS, OKLAHOMA  
SCOTT MCINNIS, COLORADO  
JIM MCCREY, LOUISIANA  
DAVE CAMP, MICHIGAN  
PHILIP S. ENGLISH, PENNSYLVANIA  
RON LEWIS, KENTUCKY

BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, MARYLAND  
FORTNEY PETE STARK, CALIFORNIA  
SANDER M. LEVIN, MICHIGAN  
JIM McDERMOTT, WASHINGTON  
LLOYD DOGGETT, TEXAS

Ex OFFICIO:  
BILL THOMAS, CALIFORNIA  
CHARLES B. RANGEL, NEW YORK

BILL THOMAS, CALIFORNIA, CHAIRMAN  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

ALLISON H. GILES, CHIEF OF STAFF  
MATT WEIDINGER, SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF DIRECTOR

JANICE MAYS, MINORITY CHIEF COUNSEL  
NICHOLAS GWYN, SUBCOMMITTEE MINORITY

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

June 20, 2002

The Honorable Tom Daschle  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Daschle:

On May 16, 2002, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 4737, the "Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act of 2002." This legislation reauthorizes the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program for 5 years. Under current law TANF's authorization expires on September 30, 2002.

The House bill continues and builds upon the dramatic success of the 1996 welfare reform law, which lifted nearly 3 million children from poverty and led to significant increases in employment and earnings by current and former welfare recipients. The House bill also provides billions of dollars in additional funds for child care, encourages drug treatment and mental health care interventions if needed to assist recipients in going to work, and provides additional flexibility to States in helping all families achieve self-sufficiency.

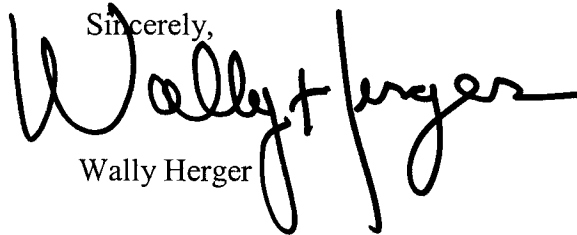
As Chairman of the Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee with jurisdiction over TANF, child care and related programs, I am concerned that the Senate has yet to reauthorize these critical programs. While a number of proposals have been introduced in the Senate, including S. 2648 introduced on June 19, 2002 by Senators Hutchinson and Sessions that closely tracks the House-passed bill, there has been no formal Senate action, either in Committee or on the floor, to reauthorize the 1996 reforms as required.

As of today, 35 days have elapsed since the House passed its bill and only 102 days remain before the TANF program expires. The coming weeks include the Fourth of July and August district work periods. Other priorities, such as homeland security, prescription drug coverage, and multiple appropriations bills, will compete for attention. I am disturbed to note that recent accounts of your priorities for future Senate action have not included welfare reauthorization among the bills you expect the Senate to consider in the near future. However, the continued failure of the Senate to act in the coming weeks to extend the 1996 reforms will threaten Congress' ability to reauthorize this critical program in a comprehensive fashion, as the House has done and the President has proposed.

Senator Daschle  
Page 2

I urge the Senate to act on welfare reform legislation as soon as possible, so that conference deliberations can begin and a final agreement can be approved and presented to the President for signature before the program expires.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wally Herger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Wally Herger